

Nevada Early Intervention Spring Family Newsletter

May - June 2017 Volume 7 No 3

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral... Happy Mother's and Father's Day

Dear Parents/Families,

Interested in attending conferences? Plan ahead — check with your local support organizations... Sometimes there are resources available to help cover some or all of the costs of transportation, hotels, meals, and registration for families to be able to attend conferences...

Each year a limited number of scholarships for parents, family members of children, and individuals with disabilities are available on a first-come, first-served basis from the **NEVADA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** (NGCDD). Interested individuals may apply for these scholarships through the **Consumer Leadership Development Fund (CLDF)** at:

<http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/2016/04/19/consumer-leadership-application/>

There is a *maximum* reimbursement so read the policy document carefully. For information or questions contact Ellen Marquez at elmarquez@dhhs.nv.gov or 775-684-8619, or visit their website at: <http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/>



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

IDEA Part C Office

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Carson City, NV 89706

Office: (775) 687-0544

Project ASSIST

1-800-522-0066

ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, contact us!

"Been there and done that!" **Nevada Partners Leadership Program** — See page 2

An invitation to attend...

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Nevada's Early Intervention **INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)** was set up to advise and assist Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. Families and community partners are invited to all ICC meetings. Please consider attending.

Reminder— **ICC's upcoming annual face-to-face meeting** will be in **Reno** on **Thursday, April 27, at 9:00 a.m.**, in the Nevada Early Intervention Services Conference Room, **2667 Enterprise Road**. Videoconferencing will NOT be offered for this meeting.

Next ICC meeting—

Date and Time of Meeting: **Thursday—July 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting will be held via video conference in Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Please check for locations on the meeting agenda posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

It is especially important to hear from families and we encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about attending meetings or how to submit public comments to the Council, please contact: ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066.

The ICC bylaws and membership can be viewed at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home/>, under **"Who is on the ICC?"**, click on **Current Membership**.

If you are interested in volunteer activities, where you can receive knowledge, share information, gain skills and experience in advocating for others and your family, the NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) has a permanent **FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE (FSRS)** that can always use parents and others who have a passion for supporting early intervention. For more information email ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call 1-800-522-0066

Been there, done that!

Building the Next Generation of Leaders. . .

A most **AWESOME** training for parents is coming to Northern Nevada this Fall! *And it's FREE!* The **Nevada Partners Leadership Program**, formerly Partners in Policymaking, a very intense and innovative national model of leadership training, is designed to teach parents and self-advocates the power of advocacy and to change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work. This training will start in September 2017, in Reno. Classes will be held one time per month, on a Saturday, from September through May (skipping December). Limited number of opportunities available. [Apply today!](#) *Help get the word out!*

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities will be **seeking applications from highly motivated, interested parents** of children with developmental disabilities, to become candidates for **Nevada Partners Leadership Program, Class of 2018**.

Participants will gain:

- **Valuable working knowledge on disability issues** and information on resources available in their community.
- **Advocacy skills.**
- **New relationships** with people who have the same interests as you.

Participants are required to:

- Commit to attend eight (8) Saturday sessions.
- Complete homework assignments between sessions.
- Commit to a project to be completed after graduation.

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM is all about...

- Leadership skills and developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other individuals who make policy decisions about services that you and/or your family use.
- Systems change—creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values about people with disabilities.
- Becoming confident in oneself, competent in the knowledge and information received, and comfortable in sharing the life experiences and expertise one brings to the program.

Submit Application: https://unr-vbepl.formstack.com/forms/reno_2018

or contact **Diana Rovetti**: rovetti@unr.edu or 775-682-9060

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A Program of the UNR **NEVADA CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES**

Planning and Record Keeping: Organizing Your Child's Information – A Care Notebook is one tool that can help you organize important information about your child. It can help you Prepare for appointments by keeping track of information such as your child's health history including medicines, therapy or treatments, health care providers, therapists, and community organizations.

<http://cshcn.org/planning-record-keeping/care-organizer-for-parents/>

The **American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry** (AAPD) mission is to advocate for policies, guidelines and programs that promote optimal oral health and oral health care for children. The AAPD welcomes you to our consumer portal, www.mychildrensteeth.org. As the recognized authority on pediatric oral health care, it's important to us that parents and caregivers have a resource they can turn to whenever they are looking for general information related to their child's dental health -- this is the right place!

Nevada's **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)** serves "...children who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally", by working with families and across systems to develop strategies that promote quality well-being and support for those children and their families.

<http://dphh.nv.gov/Programs/CYSHCN/CYSHCN-Home/>

New Resource! — Nevada Children's Medical Home Portal

One of the most recent Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program endeavors is the **Nevada Children's Medical Home Portal**. The web-based Medical Home Portal was originally developed by the University of Utah and has been adopted and adapted by five other states. It is a unique source of medical professional vetted health information and referral designed to be a "one-stop-shop" for CYSHCN and their families, physicians and Medical Home teams and other caregivers.

With family friendly language and thousands of resources at the user's disposal the Medical Home Portal is a valuable tool for families and professionals of CYSHCN. The web-based medical home is even complete with a customizable service directory containing over 1,700 Nevada specific services. The CYSHCN program funds Nevada-specific resources in partnership with Nevada 2-1-1. Within the Portal, parents and professionals can access information allowing them to better assist the child within their Medical Home.

A medical home promotes a personal, ongoing relationship among the patient, family, and the primary care provider allowing for preventive instead of only crisis-response treatment. Use of a medical home portal is encouraged to facilitate coordinated comprehensive care leading to a healthier outcome for CYSHCN and their families by enhancing the availability of health information and resources, as well as health care and related services.

The Portal's mission is to assist and support professionals and families in working together to care and advocate for CYSHCN with an always accurate, always improving website and will be continually monitored and updated providing the most up-to-date information for CYSHCN care facilitators. By providing information about specific conditions, care, and referral of local and national services and resources the Medical Home Portal will serve as an all-inclusive medical home information provider. With this website, families and physicians, and other professionals, will have access to invaluable information about specific diagnoses. As of September 2016, the Medical Home Portal contains:

- ⇒ Over 500 pages of content and resources
- ⇒ Over 5,000 links to CYSHCN-relevant websites or downloadable information
- ⇒ Over 2,900 citations of scientific and other expert literature to provide users with the evidence behind recommendations or to explore topics in greater depth
- ⇒ Information on services for CYSHCN and their families - the Medical Home Portal is the information catch-all and single point of medical and social referrals for CYSHCN.

<https://nv.medicalhomeportal.org/>

—Justin Bennet, MA

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program Coordinator

Phone: 775-684-3476 or jubennett@health.nv.gov

MedlinePlus.gov - Created and maintained by the National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's website providing trusted health information to the public. With the world's largest medical library, it brings you information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues from the health topic pages, a medical encyclopedia, extensive information on prescription and nonprescription drugs, health news, surgery videos, a medical dictionary and much more. Includes a Spanish language version of the site. MedlinePlus is updated daily. <https://medlineplus.gov/>

HealthyChildren.org

An online website sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), called **HealthyChildren.org**, is a parenting website backed by 66,000 pediatricians committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Whether you're looking for general information related to child health or for more specific guidance on parenting issues, you've come to the right place. www.healthychildren.org

FREE Online Magazine – Parenting Special Needs Magazine

It is a free, online, bi-monthly publication dedicated to helping the special needs community. It covers all the ages, stages and different disabilities, as well as providing an invaluable resource for the parents and caregivers of those with special needs. Web: <http://parentingspecialneeds.org/>

Nevada's Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) is a statewide program created to assist parents and caregivers with the expensive cost of providing Autism-specific treatments to their child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ATAP provides a monthly allotment to pay for on-going treatment development, supervision and a limited amount of weekly intervention hours based upon a child's individual treatment plan, age, and income. Call 775-687-4210 or visit their website for more information. <http://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/Autism/ATAP/ATAP>

Nevada PEP, as the statewide Parent Training and Information Center, offers classes such as **"Making the Most Out of Your Baby's Early Intervention Services"**, for families of children under the age of three who want to learn more about the services that are available to enhance their baby's development. In **"Six Advocacy Tips that Turn No's into Yes's!"**, you are the expert on your child and you know what your child needs. Learn how to get it with these six amazing advocacy strategies! For more information on these and other classes, contact PEP statewide at **1-800-216-5188** or visit their website at: www.nvpep.org/

Children's Disabilities Information—Our lives changed forever when our son was born extremely premature in 1988. After his earlier struggles to survive, our family began the subsequent struggle of raising a child with multiple special needs, most of which are not obvious or well understood. As you know this is no easy task! This website was created to help other parents of children with special needs, like yourself, with articles on topics that we have found to be helpful to us over the past 20 years.

<http://www.childrensdisabilities.info/>

Family TIES directs Nevada's Family-to-Family Healthcare Information and Education Center and provides statewide support to families of children and youth with special health care needs by:

- Assisting families as they navigate public and private systems, including health systems and insurance plans,
- Assisting families in accessing services and resources for their children and in partnering with providers and caregivers,
- Listening to families as they describe their encounters with systems and helping guide them to possible solutions,
- Working with families, health care providers, public and private agencies, and advocacy or support groups to promote family-centered care and medical homes for children with special health care needs,
- Promoting discussion and linkages among families, providers, managed care programs, and government to better serve the health care and related needs of children and families in Nevada.

For more information call **1-866-326-8437** or visit their web site at:

<http://www.familytiesnv.org/>

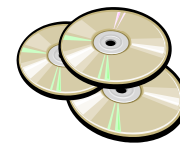
ZERO TO THREE's Parent Portal provides a variety of resources for parents and caregivers of young children in areas such as: Ages and Stages, Social-Emotional Development, School Readiness and Early Learning, Play, Challenging Behavior, Sleep, and Positive Parenting Approaches. Resources designed to help you tune in to what makes your child tick, and to guide you in thinking about the best way to meet your child's individual needs. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/parent-favorites>

Social Security benefits for children with disabilities - A child with a disability who is younger than 18 years of age may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Have a look at the **SSA's Child Disability Starter Kit**, which includes a fact sheet on the application process, a child disability interview preparation checklist and a Medical and School Worksheet. Available in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#) at http://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_child_eng.htm

Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative: By Parents, for Parents—It's all the insider information about Nevada's Early Intervention Services System in one common place. This project consists of a parent Facebook (www.nvparents.com/fb) support page for families with children in Early Intervention Services, information to give parents the basic knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively, and a website that shares with everyone. **Early Intervention Parents Nevada** is a place for all parents of children with disabilities to connect. Please post your personal stories, questions about your child's development and/or disability, questions about Early Intervention programs, great parenting articles you've come across, community resources and events. at www.nvparents.com.



— For Families & Professionals —
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY
There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!



Don't forget! Mother's Day is May 14th
Videos & Books for Mothers

A Child with Special Needs — This DVD features families who share their personal stories in order to help other families understand the experiences, emotions and challenges they will encounter. It provides information on: What to do when you find out that your child has a special need; Moving from confusion and grief to acceptance and empowerment; Finding answers and getting help; Speaking up as your child's best advocate; The importance of looking beyond the diagnosis; and, Focusing on your child's unique strengths.

Unexpected Journey: When Special Needs Change Our Course — A comprehensive resource for families confronted with the challenge of special needs. This is a book by a husband and wife whose course in life changed with the birth of their first child. With honesty and sensitivity it offers practical encouragement from parents who have been there.

More Than A Mom: Living A Full And Balanced Life When Your Child Has Special Needs — Research, personal experiences, and feedback from over 500 mothers across North America results in a book that is jam-packed with practical strategies, advice, and reassurance for mothers trying to create more manageable and fulfilling lives.

Don't forget! Father's Day is June 18th
Videos & Books for Fathers

Father's Voices: A Journey of the Heart — This DVD focuses on four dads and how their lives have been dramatically changed because of their children.

Dads of Disability: Stories for, by, and about fathers of children who experience disability — This book helps to show that Dads can be, and are a part of raising a child with a disability. These essays provide insight into a father's reaction to learning his child has a disability, how he adapts and copes, the learning curve involved, the bond and love that forms along with further describing in some cases the death of a child and how one grieves.

Special CHILDREN, Challenged PARENTS: The Struggles and Rewards of Raising a Child with a Disability — This book shares the unique perspective of a father of a son with autism, with additional reflection from his perspective as a clinical psychologist who specializes in working with families of children with disabilities. It illustrates the impact that a child's disability has on the entire family. Readers learn about resources, such as support groups, for working through complex emotions and about techniques for communicating effectively with professionals, and is a valuable resource for families of children with a wide range of disabilities.

Our "Resources for Fathers" page, is a compilation of a **Guide for Dads**, articles, videos and lists of support groups for dads of children with disabilities: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Fathers/>

With hundreds of books and DVDs available for use statewide, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, send an email to ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

Catalog at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Special-Ed-Library/>

Project ASSIST is Nevada's early intervention **central resource directory** for anyone seeking information about organizations, programs or agencies that may provide services and supports for children and young adults up to 21 years with disabilities, and their families. The purpose of Project ASSIST is to inform and educate families of infants and toddlers with disabilities or special health care needs, and the general public. Please call Project ASSIST for more information at 1-800-522-0066 or visit their website at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

Hear to Learn - New Resource to Support Young Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management): A new free resource Hear to Learn is now available to help parents of young children support spoken language development. The content was developed to be easily accessible (e.g., short video tutorial segments that are narrated and captioned). Easy to follow language activities can be downloaded. And parents can share their story, ask questions, attend webinars, and read about relevant research. It is also available in Spanish.
<http://www.heartolearn.org/>

PACER Center's booklet EZ at 2: Simple Assistive Technology Ideas for Children Ages Birth to Three: A Guide for Increasing Young Children's Participation in Daily Activities and Routines. Divided into daily living categories such as "At Home," "Meal and Snack Time," etc., this guide for parents and professionals offers simple, do-it-yourself solutions for anyone who wants to help infants and toddlers with disabilities participate more fully in recreational and other daily activities.
<http://www.pacer.org/stc/pubs/EZ-AT-book-2011-final.pdf>

EI program information > http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:**

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:**

- **Community Play groups** every 2nd & 4th Friday, of each month. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. For more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:**

- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Call to RSVP: 775-823-9500
- **Friends of Special Children** - This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov.
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3rd Thursday of every other month on the "odd" months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: info@nvhandsandvoices.org

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Reno:**

- **Inclusive Developmental Play Group** at Early Head Start. Call Melissa McGovern at: 775-525-4072.

⇒ **The Continuum—Reno:**

- **Carousel Kids** is an inclusive childcare program. We also offer an intergenerational experience with elders from our onsite adult day program. For more information or to schedule a tour, phone: 775-829-4700.
- **Literacy Land**—FREE! Gently used books for children birth-5 years. Or donate to our lending library. Meet, mingle, borrow, share, read, enjoy with your friends at the Continuum! Also, look for our collection bins around town! For further information, please call the Continuum's Early Intervention department at (775) 221-8054 or email at info@continuumreno.com. Visit us at continuumreno.com

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:**

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

⇒ **ISS Baby Steps—Las Vegas:**

- **Inspired Discoveries Playgroup** welcomes children 0-3 years old in an inclusive setting. Please join in our fun adventure! Call: 702-586-3100

⇒ **Kideology—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:**

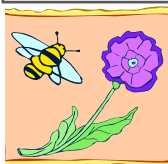
- **Explore & Learn Developmental Playgroups in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson**—Weekly, inclusive community playgroups include engaging, age-appropriate peer activities for families of infants and toddlers with diverse abilities to support child development. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Sign Language class at University Medical Center (UMC)**—NEIS staff provide this bi-weekly parent education class on communication skills using sign language to promote understanding between toddlers and their families. All members of the family are welcome to attend. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.

⇒ **Positively Kids—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas:**

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, starts at 6:30pm, at East Las Vegas Community Center located at 250 N. Eastern Ave.
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Thursdays at Family to Family & UNLV Preschool. Contact Robbi Lucero at: 702-335-1666 or rlucero@tmgnv.com

The Early Intervention Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (Subject to review & editing.)



Nevada's Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a "Links" page with all kinds of useful local, state, and national websites.

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>



Save the Date!

SPRING FLING!

9:00am – 1:00pm

Boys N Girls Club

1300 Foster Dr Reno, NV 89509

Saturday May 20, 2017

- * Free community event for families with special needs children and young adults
- * Free brunch to those who pre-register
- * Resource fair
- * Network and connect with other families
- * Assistive Technology Demos
- * Activity rooms for children as well as a quiet room
- * Ignite sessions including topics such as: disability rights, employment, optimal nutrition therapy, medical home model, and more!

R.S.V.P. to Janessa at Janessa.Deleon@Eastersealsnevada.org

